P.T. Georgetown SCS

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Pacific Region Association of Alternative Schools

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August 31, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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L. F. S. Burnham
Prime Minister
Government Buildings
Brick Dam, Georgetown
Guyana

Dear Sir:

A perfidious campaign against Reverend Jim Jones and People's Temple has come to our attention. Sensationalist press, immoral journalists, corrupt and decadent magazines are trying to misrepresent the work of People's Temple and to taint the honor of Rev. Jones. Our organization, which organizes community schools at the elementary, secondary and college level, wants very much to dispel the effects of this infamous campaign and to give People's Temple our total support.

We know of the activities of People's Temple through our association with Ms. Yvonne Golden, a distinguished American educator who pursues an active role in the public schools of San Francisco, bringing hope and vitality to otherwise impoverished students from humble families in our city. She speaks highly of People's Temple, and we know her to be an extremely honorable and truthful person.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, People's Temple is not just a charitable organization. It is an active alliance of the members of our community working to bring to our society not only the most ample democracy but, at the same time, a spirit of social justice that is the very essence of Christianity. Self reliance, hard work, discipline and, above everything, a profound respect for human dignity is the essence of People's Temple's work. Our organization cannot let this occasion pass by without supporting this most significant movement in our country. As you know, sometimes dull and uninspired journalists find in cheap sensationalism a way to sell more papers. It is unfortunate that in this case they have chosen to attack a most noble and singular organization. We are sure that you, as head of an enlightened government, know some of the most ugly aspects of the so-called freedom of the press.

Above everything, People's Temple will continue helping people, working with them and bringing hope to all citizens. We hope they will receive your support.

In the name of our Board of Directors.

Sincerely yours,

F. Burnham

Fernando Gonzalez
Regional Director